

### **REMARKS**

The undernoted, Linda Palomar, and the Examiner spoke on March 18, 2004. The Examiner indicated that the claims are allowable, except that claims 12 and 14 were improper because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from another multiple dependent claim. Therefore, Applicants have amended claims 12 and 14 to make them dependent upon any one of claims 6 to 8. None of claims 6 to 8 are multiple dependent. Therefore, claims 12 and 14 now have proper multiple dependencies. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

In addition, claims 25-27 have been added and are identical to claim 12, except respectively dependent upon claims 9-11 (which dependencies had been canceled from claim 12 to make it proper); claims 28-30 have been added and are identical to claim 14, except respectively dependent upon claims 9-11 (which dependencies had been canceled from claim 14 to make it proper). Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 25-30 are proper and requests entry and allowance.

Applicants maintain that claim 23 should be grouped with claims 6-14 as it is dependent upon claim 6 and falls within Invention II. Therefore, it has not been canceled.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to file claims relating to the non-elected inventions and species in divisional applications.

Applicants request return of the initialed Form PTO-1449 from the Information Disclosure Statements filed on December 11, 2001, August 5, 2002, February 18, 2003, April 17, 2003.

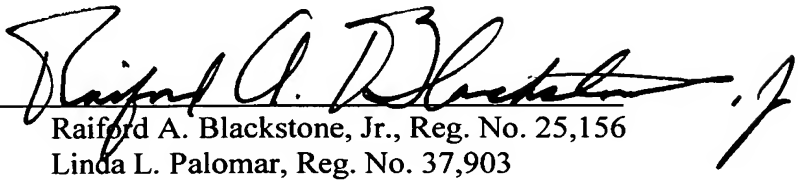
In addition, Applicants request acknowledgment by the Examiner of receipt of the Certified Copies of the priority documents which should have been received from the International Bureau.

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 30, 2004

By:

  
Raiford A. Blackstone, Jr., Reg. No. 25,156  
Linda L. Palomar, Reg. No. 37,903

TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI  
BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.  
105 W. Adams Street  
Suite 3600  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
(312) 704-1890

640874